



"Committed to the protection and promotion of public health."

Gallatin City-County Health Department

****Health Alert Network (HAN) Message****

Message Type: Update

To: Health Care Providers

Date: May 6, 2009

Re: Updated H1N1 Testing Criteria

State of Montana DPHHS HAN UPDATE DPHHS HAN, Tuesday May 5, 2009 3:40 PM

The Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS) continues to support laboratory testing to identify cases of Influenza A H1N1 (swine-like). During the time period, April 28, 2009 until noon on May 4, 2009, the Montana Public Health Laboratory (MTPHL) reported 328 specimens from patients with influenza-like illness; 20% of these specimens have identified seasonal influenza A viruses. No case of Influenza A H1N1 (swine-like) has been confirmed in Montana at this time. We are now modifying the criteria for specimens that will be processed at no charge at MTPHL.

As of May 6, 2009, specimens submitted for patients meeting the criteria below will be processed at **no charge** to the provider **when documentation is provided on the laboratory requisition form.**

Specimens submitted **without documenting** the presence of influenza-like illness *and* either hospitalization *or* travel to an area with confirmed cases will be either **not tested** or **billed to the submitter.**

UPDATED DPHHS TESTING RECOMMENDATIONS (5/5/2009):

DPHHS will support laboratory testing costs for Influenza A H1N1 (swine-like) for **patients meeting the following criteria:**

Patients who meet the case definition of influenza-like illness (ILI) **AND**

a.) who have traveled within 7 days to a community either within the United States or internationally where there are one or more confirmed Influenza A H1N1 (swine-like) cases,

OR

b.) Patients admitted to the hospital with an ILI. ILI is defined as fever (100°F or greater) and a cough and/or a sore throat in the absence of a KNOWN cause other than influenza.

To qualify for state-supported testing, please document the presence of ILI and recent travel to an area with documented cases of Influenza A H1N1 (swine-like) or current hospitalization for ILI on the MTPHL requisition form.

Treatment with Antiviral Medications

Please use antiviral medications judiciously. Priority should be given for **treatment** of hospitalized patients and outpatients at high risk for influenza complications. Mild uncomplicated illness should not be treated.

Watch for further details regarding use of antiviral medications in a separate communication.

DPHHS Health Alert Hotline 1-800-701-5769

Visit the DPHHS Health Alert Network Website at www.han.mt.gov

Categories of Health Alert Messages:

Health Alert	Conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention.
Health Advisory	Provides important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action.
Health Update	Provides updated information regarding an incident or situation; unlikely to require immediate action.